

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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/107 W
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R 041510Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7934
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2163

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS SHUM ES
SUBJ: LIKELY OASGA STANDS BY GOES

REF: STATE 103851

1. IN A CALL ON THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ON APRIL 28,
POLITICAL OFFICER AND POL/LABOR OFFICER MET WITH JOSE ROBERTO
ANDINO, DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS. IN A RESPONSE TO A QUESTION
ON WHAT POSITION EL SALVADOR MIGHT TAKE AT THE OASGA WITH RESPECT
TO IAHRC REPORTS ON PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY, ANDINO SAID THE MATTER WAS
STILL BEING STUDIED. HE COMMENTED THAT SINCE EL SALVADOR HAD PER-
MITTED A VISIT BY THE IAHRC, THAT EL SALVADOR SHOULD NOT BE
CONSIDERED AMONG THE "HARD LINE" COUNTRIES WHEN IT CAME TO MATTERS
TOUCHING ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. ANDINO MADE NO COMMENT WHEN POLITICAL OFFICER RAISED SUBJECT OF
EL SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS SIDNEY MAZZINI'S STATEMENT
ON APRIL 14 BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE OASGA WOULD NOT BOG
DOWN IN DEBATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, TO THE EXCLUSION
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OF OTHER TOPICS, SUCH AS THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
IN LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIES. HE REFERRED TO THE LAST OASGA
IN GRENADA AS HAVING BEEN "UNPRODUCTIVE" BECAUSE OF ITS
BEING OVERLY CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

3. ANDINO THEN TALKED ABOUT THE TAKEOVER THAT DAY OF THE
RED CROSS BUILDING IN SAN SALVADOR BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED

POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU) (SEE SAN SALVADOR 2145). HE REFERRED TO THIS AND THE RECENT TAKEOVER OF EMBASSIES BY THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) AND EMPHASIZED THE MODERATE REACTION OF THE GOES TO THESE "PROVOCATIVE" ACTIONS.

4. COMPOSITION OF EL SALVADOR DELEGATION TO VIII OASGA STILL NOT KNOWN, BUT WILL PRESUMABLY INCLUDE AMBASSADOR MAZZINI AND ANDINO. APPOINTMENT OF NEW FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH ON MAY 1, COMBINED WITH SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL RESIGNATIONS IN MINISTRY COULD LEAD TO CHANGES IN ROLE EL SALVADOR WILL PLAY AND POSITIONS IT WILL TAKE AT GA. WHILE NEW LINES OF BUREAU-CRATIC AUTHORITY ARE BEING ESTABLISHED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DUE TO RODRIGUEZ PORTH'S APPOINTMENT, MAZZINI, WHO IS KNOWN AS A HARDLINER ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, MIGHT BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ANOTHER FOHCEFUL RESTATEMENT OF HIS VIEWS. HOWEVER, PRESENCE OF DELEGATES FROM FONMIN, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF MINISTER HIMSELF, MIGHT WELL EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON MAZZINI.

5. BECAUSE OF THE RECENT IAHRC VISIT, EL SALVADOR CAN PROBABLY BE COUNTED ON NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE IAHRC. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT IT WOULD JOIN IN ANY ATTACKS ON URUGUAY/PARAGUAY OR CHILE ON THE PREMISE THAT "PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES SHOULD NOT THROW STONES." IT IS EXTREMELY UN-LIKELY THAT EL SALVADOR WOULD JOIN IN ANY CRITICISM OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NICARAGUA OR ANY OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY ON HUMAN RIGHTS OR OTHER GROUNDS BECAUSE OF THE PREMIUM IT PUTS ON MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IN ORDER, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION ON THE EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE. OVER ALL, EL SALVADOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUSH FOR THE OASGA'S CONSIDERING OTHER ISSUES THAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVOIDING CONFRONTATIONS.

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